

CD NO.

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE            Newspapers as indicated.

COLLEGIUM DISCUSSES DEFICIENCIES IN PREPARATIONS -- Moscow, Rechnoy Transport,  
20 May 52

On 16 May, the Collegium of the Ministry of River Fleet discussed preparations for putting the Volga-Don Canal into operation. Present at the meeting were the following main administration and other organization heads who gave reports on progress achieved thus far:

Rylkov, chief of Glavyugflot (Main Administration of River Fleet of Southern Basins)  
 Agafonov, chief of Glavgidrokanal (Main Canal Administration)  
 Leonov, chief of Glavvodput' (Main Administration of Waterways)  
 Popov, chief of Main Construction Administration  
 Mikhaylov, chief of Political Administration  
 Zorin, chief of Central Technical Administration  
 Cherevko, Deputy Minister of River Fleet  
 Vakhturov, Deputy Minister of River Fleet

Too much complacency was being shown in many of the administrations and numerous examples of incompleted tasks were cited. While 18 passenger ships were to be prepared for the Volga-Don Canal, nine by industrial centers of Glavtsentrofлот (Main Administration of River Fleet of Central Basins) and nine by plants of Glavrechprom (Main Administration of River Shipbuilding Industry), only two, the A. N. Nekrasov and the Krasnaya Zvezda, were ready for operation. The repair of eight of these ships was lagging seriously. Other deficiencies were noted. The production of floating passenger docks was behind schedule, as was the production of "Moskvich" type diesel passenger ships which are being built at Moscow and Stalingrad plants of Glavrechprom. Plants of Glavseverofлот (Main Administration of River Fleet of Northern Basins) were lagging in the production of several 450-horsepower tow ships.

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PASSENGER EXPRESS SHIP READY -- Moscow, Vechernyaya Moskva, 26 May 52

The passenger steamer M. Yu. Lermontov, one of the 18 ships to be reconditioned by the Ministry of River Fleet for operation on the Volga-Don water route, is in operation. The Lermontov will leave today for Astrakhan and, with the opening of the Volga-Don Canal, will serve as a passenger express on the Moscow -- Rostov-on-Don Line. The reconditioned steamer A. S. Pushkin and the diesel ship Georgiy Sedov will arrive in Moscow shortly.

FIRST SHIPS USE NEW CANAL -- Moscow, Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 24 May 52

On 23 May, the ship Leninskiy Komsomol' arrived in Tsimlyanskaya after a 13-hour trip from Kalach. This is the first ship of any size to cross the Tsimlyanskaya Sea.

Moscow, Rechnoy Transport, 3 Jun 52

Today, ship traffic commenced over the Volga-Don Canal. A diesel tug with four floating passenger docks started the trip from Stalingrad to Tsimlyanskaya, and the Krasnoarmeysk Regional Administration opened a new passenger line from Stalingrad to Krasnoarmeysk. Six "Moskvich" type vessels are to be used on this route.

Moscow, Rechnoy Transport, 17 Jun 52

The first passenger steamship for the Moscow-Rostov line is in Moscow and will soon make its first trip on the new line.

Moscow, Rechnoy Transport, 20 Jun 52

The first 50 self-propelled and nonself-propelled vessels passed through the Volga-Don Canal by 17 June.

Canal operators are becoming familiar with their work, and automatic equipment is gradually being put into operation. Leveling and clean-up work is continuing along the banks of the canal.

Automatic equipment is already in operation at lock No 4. All locking operations here are accomplished in 31 minutes by the automatic equipment.

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